Bank Facilities to Tobacco Traders

918. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco trade is extended bank facilities in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the share of the traders in each category of facility extended by nationalised banks;

(d) what are the outstanding overdues from the traders bank-wise; and

(e) what are the reasons for default ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) :

(a) to (e) Yes, Sir, However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not compile information regarding the advances granted or outstandings there against on a State-wise basis for Tobacco Traders. The limits sanctioned and balance outstanding as on last Friday of June, 1992 to tobacco ndustry in respect of borrowers enjoying credit facilities of Rs. 5 crores and above from the Banking system was Rs. 517.4 crores and Rs. 374.0 crores respectively. Export finance outstandings by toabcco ndustry to banks as in September, 1991 (latest available aggregate data) was as follows :

Rs. in crores)

Commodity	Pre-shipment Finance	Post-shipment Finance
Tobacco and Tabooco Manufactured	114.50	29.39
Tobacco Unmanufactured	14.38	1.80

Financial Indiscipline by States

919. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :
SHRI SOM PAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has rapped the Public Accounts Committee in its ninth report for unauthorised excess expenditure;

(b) if so, what measures are being contemplated to ensure that State Governments do not commit such financial indiscipline in future;

(c) whether this subject has been included in the terms of reference of the new Finance Commission; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and if not whether Government would consider making it so ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) :

(a) to (d) According to the West Bengal Government, the State Public Accounts Committee has made certain recommendations on the scrutiny of excess expenditure. These recommendat ons are to be dealt with by the State Government in accordance w th the procedures settled in th s behalf between the State Government and State P.A.C. and not by Central Government. The terms of reference to the Tenth Finance Commission require that the Commission, in making its recommendat ons, shall have regard, interalia, to "the scope for better

fiscal management consistent with efficiency and economy in expenditure."

SCs/STs on the Board of Directors of GIC

920. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether SCs|STs are represented on the Board of Directors of GIC as well as its 4 subsidiaries; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) Articles of Association of GIC and its Subsidiaries do not have provision for specific representation of SC|ST category Directors on their Boards. Presently, none of the Official Directors on the Boards of these Companies is from SC|ST category

Cartel of Buyers Bidding Seized Deep Sea Fishing Vessels

@921. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a cartel of buyers is bidding seized deep-sea fishing vessels at very low prices;

(b) what is the reaction of Government to such market manipulations in Visakhapatnam; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be restore such seized vessels to their original entrepreneurs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) Although a definitive judgement on the existence of a cartel of buyers may be difficult to establish, it is factually correct that bids received when seized vessels are put to auction are very low. The auctions of deep sea fishing vessels are conducted by Receivers appointed by the Central Government under the provisions of the Shipping Development Fund Committee (abolition) Act, 1986 and the Receiver is deemed to be the agent of the shipowner. The autcion is, therefore, not conducted by the Central Government.

(c) Does not arise since the vessels are seized only consequent upon the failure of the shipowner to comply with the notice of recall.

Exchange of Public Debt Bond into Public Sector Equity

922 SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for exchange of public debt bonds into public sector equity;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what decision has been taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

@Previously unstarred question 276, transferred from 28 April, 1993.